

IN TELEGRAM

P/L

FROM F.O. TO TOKYO

No. 1214

D:

29 Oct 47.

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Questions propounded on behalf of the
~~Honorable~~ Shigenitsu, Namoru:

QUESTION NO. 1: What is your name and present office?

ANSWER: SIR ROBERT LESLIE CRAIGIE, United Kingdom representative to
the United Nations War Crimes Commission.

QUESTION NO. 2: During what period were you His Britannic Majesty's Ambassador
to Japan?

ANSWER: From Sept. 3rd 1937 until the outbreak of war.

QUESTION NO. 3: Did you, from information received by you in your official
capacity as such ambassador, have an opportunity to know the
activities and policies of Namoru Shigenitsu, the Ambassador
from Japan to the Court of St. James's from October 1938 until
his return to Tokyo on leave?

ANSWER: Yes.

QUESTION NO. 4: Please state what you know as a result from such information
such activities and policies, giving the basis of your knowledge.

ANSWER: From records of conversations which Mr. Shigenitsu had with
British Cabinet Ministers and others in London, I knew that he
was doing everything in his power to improve Anglo-Japanese
relations and ease the growing tension.

QUESTION NO. 5: Did Mr. Shigenitsu return from London on leave, arriving in
Tokyo on or about July 20, 1941, and remain in Tokyo until the
outbreak of war?

ANSWER: Yes.

QUESTION NO. 6: Did you meet Mr. Shigenitsu after his return to Tokyo, and, if
so, approximately how many meetings did you have with him?

ANSWER: Yes, six or seven times.

QUESTION NO. 7: Were these meetings of an official or social nature, or both?

ANSWER: Both.

QUESTION NO. 8: Did he tell you the purpose for which he returned, and, if so, what did he say was his purpose?

ANSWER: Yes, he said he had returned on leave because he believed he could at that moment do more in Tokyo than in London to arrest the deterioration in relations with the Western Powers.

QUESTION NO. 9: Did you discuss with him the improvement of Anglo-Japanese relations, the peaceful settlement of differences between the two countries and the avoidance of war, or any of these subjects?

ANSWER: Yes. We discussed all these subjects.

QUESTION NO. 10: What did he say regarding these subjects or any of them?

ANSWER: We discussed various suggestions for averting the catastrophe of war. Mr. Shigemitsu was simultaneously having talks with Admiral Toyoda and other leading Japanese. After this inter of time it is difficult to remember exactly what he said and in any case our conversations were purely unofficial since the negotiations which would decide the issue of peace or war were proceeding at Washington. But our talks left no doubt in my mind of Mr. Shigemitsu's earnest desire to help towards a peaceful settlement. He remained hopeful as long as Prince Konoye retained the Premiership.

QUESTION NO. 11: Did you discuss with Mr. Shigemitsu, Admiral Toyoda, the then Foreign Minister, or other persons, any work Mr. Shigemitsu was doing or conferences he was having with Admiral Toyoda or other persons on these matters and, if so, what did Mr. Shigemitsu, Admiral Toyoda, or such other persons say?

ANSWER: Yes, I can quote two instances.

(A) At Mr. Shigemitsu's suggestion a meeting took place at the Foreign Ministry between Admiral Toyoda, Mr. Shigemitsu and myself at which the critical stage reached in the Washington negotiations was explained to me and I was asked to urge the British Govt. to play their part in averting a breakdown.

(B) At Mr. Shigemitsu's request Mr. Shigeru, Yoshida came to Hayain about Oct. 1941 to enquire whether I could make any personal suggestions for ending the deadlock in regard to Indo-China. I was however precluded by my instructions from taking any official part in discussing the matters under negotiation in Washington

QUESTION NO. 12: Did you discuss with Mr. Shigemitsu or other persons the proposed Konoye Conference with President Roosevelt and any work Mr. Shigemitsu was doing with regard to it, the part, if any, it was proposed he have in such conference, and, if so, what did he, or such other persons say?

ANSWER:

QUESTION NO. 13: Did he express any opinion as to whether or not the purpose of such a conference was the peaceful settlement of the difference between Japan and Great Britain and the United States and the chances of success of such a conference, and, if so, what did he say and what, if anything, did you say with regard to such conference?

ANSWER:

QUESTION NO. 14: From your observation, did he show any reaction of discouragement or encouragement or otherwise when the proposed conference did not materialize and, if so, what reaction?

ANSWER: (12) (13) and (14). I do not recollect any specific conversation with Mr. Shigemitsu on this subject, though I know he was generally favourable to the idea of a Roosevelt-Konoye meeting.

QUESTION NO. 15: Did you later hear from any persons whether or not it was proposed that Mr. Shigemitsu be sent to assist Admiral Nomura, the then Japanese Ambassador to the United States, in his negotiations in Washington, and, if so, what did such persons say?

ANSWER: I learned that the original idea of the Foreign Minister had been to send Mr. Shigemitsu to Washington to assist Admiral Nomura. My informants were two Japanese of high standing.

QUESTION NO. 16: Did you hear from any persons that such proposal was vetoed, by whom it was vetoed and for what reasons?

ANSWER: The proposal was vetoed by the army on the ground that Mr. Shigomitsu was known to be too friendly to the Western powers.

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質問第五、重光氏ハ賜服ニヨリ「ロンドン」カラ歸リ、一九四一年七月二十日カ又ハ眞頃東京ニ着キ、戦争勃発迄東京ニ居リマシタ。談ノ記述カラ、私ハ同氏ガ日英關係ヲ改善シ、増大シテユク緊張ヲ緩和スル爲アラユル刀ランシテ戻タコトヲ知リマシタ。

質問第六、重光氏ノ歸朝後會ヒマシタカ。六ヨソ何回位會ヒマシタカ。

質問第七、ソノ會見ハ公ノ性質ノモノデシタカ。又ハ兩万テシタカ。

質問第八、同氏ハアナタニ歸朝ノ目的ヲ話シマシタカ。若シ話シタトス

レバ、目的ハ何デアルト言ヒマシタカ。カラ賜暇講朝シタト話シマシタ。氏ハ當時歐米諸國トノ關係ノ悪化ヲクヒトメル

カニハ、「ロンドン」ヨリモ東京ノ万ガヨクヤレルト信ズル

質問第九、アナタハ日英關係ノ改善、兩國關係爭問題ノ平和的解決及ビ

戦争ノ回避又ハ右問題ノイヅレカニツイテ同氏ト話合ヒマシタカ。

答 話合ヒマシタ。此等ノ問題ハ皆話合ヒマシタ。

質問第十、此等ノ問題又ハソノイヅレカニツイテ氏ハ何ト言ヒマシタカ。

答 我々ハ戦争ノ慘害ヲ避ケル爲ノ色々ノ意見ニツイテ話合ヒマシタ。重光氏ハ同時ニ鹽田海軍大將及ビ其他ノ有刀ナ日本人ト會談ヲシテ居リマシタ。月日ガコンナニ繩ツテ居ルノデ、氏ノ言ツタ事ヲ正確ニ想出スノハ困難デアリマスガ、我々ノ會談ハ全ク非公式ノモノデアリマシタ、ソレハ平和力競争力ノ間隔ヲ決スルヤウナ交渉ハ「ワシントン」デ行ハレテ居タカラテアリマス。シカシ我々ノ會談ガ、平和的區決ヲ援助シテ居リマシタ。ヨウ容レマセん。氏ハ近衛公ガ恩遇大臣テアル間ハ希望ヲモツトハ疑トノ間テ、アナタハ重光氏、當時ノ外相大臣鹽田大將、父ハ其他ノ人々ト會談シタコトヲ話合ヒマシタカ。

質問第一、田大將又ハ重光氏、當時ノ外相大臣鹽田大將、父ハ其他ノ人々ト會談シタコトヲ話合ヒマシタカ。

答

答

質問第一二、
 マシタカ。
 重光氏ノ要望ニヨリ、一九四一年十月頃吉田茂氏ガ葉山
 ナ來テ、佛印ニ關スル行詰リヲ打開スル爲ノ何事カ個人的
 ナ案ヲ述べルコトガ出來ルカト私ニタヅネマシタ。シカシ
 私ハ「ワシントン」ニ於ケル交渉中ノ事項ノ討議ニ正式ニ
 参加スルコトハ訓令ニヨツテトメラレテ居リマシタ。

聞シ重光氏ガヤツテ居タコト、此ノ會見ニ際係スルコトニ
 ナツテ居タカドウカラ重光氏父ハ眞也ノ人々ト詰合ヒマシ
 タカ。若シサウトスレバ、岡氏父ハ眞也ノ人々ハ何ト言ヒ
 ヒマシタカ。

若シサウナラバ重光氏、豊田大將父ハ眞也ノ人々ハドウ言
 ヒマシタカ。

(1)重光氏ノ提案デ、豊田大將、重光氏及ビ私ノ會談ガ外
 省テ行ハレ、私ニ對シ「ワシントン」ニ於ケル交渉ノ危機
 ニ付説明ガアリ、且ツ決裂ヲサケル爲一ト役買フヤウ英國
 政府ニ從心万私ニ依頼ガアリマシタ。

答

質問第一五、

外務大臣ノ最初ノ考ハ重光氏ヲ「ワシントン」ヘヤリ野村「ワシントン」ハ、アナハ其後、當時駐米日本大使テアツタ野村、大蔵ノ最初ノ考ハ重光氏ヲ「ワシントン」ニ於ケル交渉ヲ手傳フ爲ニ重光氏ヲヤルトノ言フ案ガアツタカドウカ、誰カカラシキマシタカ。若シサトノウトスレバ、ソノ人ハ何ト言ヒマシタカ。

答

質問第一四、

シマゼン。

時ニ同氏ハ失望シタトカ、ヨカツタトカ父ハ其他ノ反動ヲ示シタデセウカ。若シサウトスレバ、ドンナ反動テシタカ。第一二、第一三、及ビ第一四。私ハ重光氏ガ「ローズヴエルト」近衛會見ノ考ニハ全体トシテ賛成シテ居タコトハ想出シテ居ルカ、本件ニツイテ氏ト特ニ會談シタコトハ想出シマゼン。

答

質問第一三、

係争問題ノ平和的解決ニアルカドウカト言フコト及ビカカル會見ノ成功ノ見込ニツイテ該見ヲ述ベマシタカ。若シサウトスレバ、氏ハ何ト言ヒ、父カカル會見ニツイテ、アナタガ何カ言ハレタトスレバ、何ト言ハレマシタカ。

答 實

大將ヲ補佐サセルニアルコトヲ私ハ聞イテ居マシタ。私ニ
之ヲ告ゲタ人ハ地位ノ高イ日本人二人テアリマシタ。
アナタハ力カル案ガ拒否セラレタコト、誰ガ拒否シタ力及
ビ真ノ眞田ニツイテ誰力カラ聞キマシタカ。
此ノ案ハ、重光氏ガアマリニ親歐米的トシテ知ラレテ居ル
トノ理由テ陸軍ニヨリ斥ケラレタノデアリマス。